

REMARKS:

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the figures are copies of photographs. A proposed drawing correction is enclosed where each of the Figures were redone as line drawings. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 15 are objected to because of informalities. In light of the fact that the informalities have been corrected, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection Under 35 USC §112

Claims 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to make clear which securing means is being recited in claims 13 and 15. Claims 13 and 15 have been amended to make clear that it is the second securing means being claimed.

Claim Rejection Under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-3, 6-11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Goodson (5,298,001).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the digit protective means are sized and positioned such that, when installed on a hand, all four fingers of the hand can curl around and grasp the digit protective means and that the palm and wrist protective means protect substantially the entire palmar surface of the palm and wrist of a user from abrasion and hyper-extension. The

digit protective means of Goodson is sized and positioned such that only two of the four fingers of the hand can curl around it. This is not sufficient to protect all four fingers of a baseball player's hands, which is necessary since all four finger, not just two, are vulnerable to injury when the player slides. Additionally, the palm and wrist protective means of Goodson are sized and shaped only to protect a narrow strip at the center of the palm of a wearer, unlike the present invention which is sized and shaped to protect substantially the entire palmar surface of the palm and wrist of a user. During a slide the entire palmar surface of a baseball players palm and wrist are vulnerable to abrasions, not just a narrow strip at its center.

Claims 2-3, 6-11, and 13 all depend from claim 1, and these claims are not anticipated by Goodson for the same reasons given above.

Regarding claim 8, this claim requires an elastic loop attached to the sleeve opposite to where the stitching that creates the sleeve by attaching the pad to itself is located, and that when in use, the loop surrounds the portion of the finger(s) near to where the finger(s) join the palm of the users hand . The examiner states that elements 12c and 12d of Goodson are a loop material attached to the sleeve. Close reading of Goodson will show that element 32, not elements 12c and 12d, is the elastic loop, and the elastic element 32 is *not* attached to sleeve 30, as required by the claim.

Regarding claim 10, this claim now requires that the strap of the wrist engagement means can be attached to the pad at any of a plurality of distances from the dowel, thereby allowing adjustability of the finger, palm and wrist protective pad to be sized to fit a particular palm length of a user, which feature is not shown by the Goodson reference.

For all of these reasons, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw

rejection of claims 1-3, 6-11 and 13 as being anticipated by Goodson.

Claim Rejection Under 35 USC §103

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodson (5,298,001) in view of Winningham (6,226,795).

Claim 12 depends back to claim 1, and is therefore allowable for all the reasons set forth in the above remarks pertaining to that claim. The Winningham patent does nothing to make up for the deficiencies in the Goodson patent in meeting the limitations of the claims as amended.

Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodson (5,298,001).

Claims 14 and 15 depends back to claim 1, and is therefore allowable for all the reasons set forth in the above remarks pertaining to that claim.

Claims 4, 5, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodson (5,298,001) in view of Mah (6,666,795).

Claim 4, 5, depend back to claim 1, and claim 16 is an independent claim including all the limitations set forth in claim 1, and therefore these claims are allowable for all the reasons set forth in the above remarks pertaining to claim 1. The Mah patent does nothing to make up for the deficiencies in the Goodson patent in meeting the limitations of the claims as amended. In

addition, these claims require that the dowel is made of foam, and that the sleeve is made by attaching the digit end of the pad to a portion of the first side of the pad. The Examiner states that Mah teaches a foam digit protective means at column 4, lines 48-55. While Mah provides a list of various materials from which a dowel can be made, foam is not among them. Additionally, the sleeve supporting the dowel of both Goodson and Mah is a separate piece of material which is attached to the pad, not formed by rolling the end of the pad back onto itself and stitching it to itself, as required by the claim. For these additional reasons, claims 4, 5, and 16 are allowable over the art of record.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the claims now pending in the present application are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the amendment and remarks is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Shay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

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